



St. John's United Church of Christ

P. O. Box 180 ● 516 Colorado Street
Burton, Texas 77835
979-289-2485 Office 979-289-2711 Fax
www.stjohnsburton.org

Elizabeth Jurica, Chair
Pastoral Search Committee
PO Box 456
Burton, Texas 77835
979.251.2799
ejurica@burtonisd.net

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

St. John's United Church of Christ
Burton, Texas

Senior Pastor

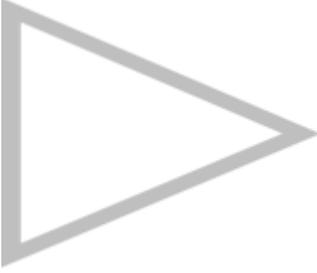
South Central Conference

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE CONTENTS

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*"God is able to provide you with every blessing, so that
having all sufficiency in all things at all times,
you may abound in every good work."
(2 Corinthians 9:8)*

1. POSITION POSTING

- 
- a. LISTING INFORMATION
 - b. SCOPE OF WORK
 - c. COMPENSATION & SUPPORT
 - d. WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

1a. LISTING INFORMATION

Church name: St. John's United Church of Christ

Street address: 516 Colorado Street / PO Box 180, Burton, Texas 77835

Supplemental web links: <http://stjohnsburton.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsburton/>

Conference: South Central Conference

Association: Heart of Texas

UCC Conference or Association Staff Contact Person :

Rev. Dr. Donald Longbottom, Phone: (480) 322-5779, drdon@sccucc.org

Conference Office Contact:

(830) 625-2212

<http://www.sccucc.org>, Email: office @sccucc.org

Summary Ministry Description:

St. John's UCC is looking for a youthful, energetic person who is theologically moderate and relates well to all ages. Someone who leads by listening and relates their engaging, relevant services to everyday life.

Photographs: *Please see descriptions below each image.*



Pictured above: *St. John's UCC Sanctuary front, facing Colorado Street*



Pictured above: *Community event in the Family Life Center*



Pictured above: *Outdoor Praise Service in Courtyard*



Pictured above: *Image from Vacation Bible School, serving approximately 70 children each summer, both members and visitors*

What we value about living in our area: *We value the supportive, family-oriented nature of the people in our congregation and local community, which includes valuing tradition and heritage while being open to new ideas and being welcoming to visitors and new members. A distinct attribute of our area is education; we have a small public school in Burton, larger public and private schools and a local community college in the county (Brenham), and two major universities within a short drive (Texas A&M in 45 minutes and University of Texas in less than 2 hours). Additionally, Burton is near recreational areas, such as Lake Somerville, and is located close to larger cities (Houston, Austin, San Antonio). It is important to note that St. John's UCC in Burton, Texas is not a rural church, even though we are located in a rural community.*

Current size of membership: *306 Active Members (188 Inactive, 494 = Membership Total)*

Languages used in ministry (*other than English*): *none*

Position Title: *Senior Pastor*

Position Duration: *Settled* – *A called position intended for longer-term ministry in which the minister moves church membership to the congregation and moves standing to related association*

Compensation Level: *Full Time*

Does the total support package meet conference compensation guidelines? *Yes, the support package meets conference compensation guidelines.*

1b. SCOPE OF WORK

Responsibilities for the Senior Pastor position include, but are not limited to, leading uplifting services which includes preaching sermons and children's sermons applicable to the congregations' daily living, being a good steward of resources (time, money, facilities, etc), pastoral care (hospitals, nursing homes, shut-ins, etc), community involvement (Bridge Ministry, Burton ISD, etc), counseling, and other various duties.

Core Competencies: *We were asked to list three core competencies we believe describe the foundational relationship with our future pastor; our qualifying competencies are “Caring, Organized, Leader.”*

1c. COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT

Salary Basis: *\$45,000-\$65,000 + parsonage*

Benefits: *Salary plus Benefits*

What is the expected living situation for your next minister? *Our parsonage is available. It is a 3/2/2 brick home that has been recently remodeled on 2+ acres with a view. The parsonage is in town across the street from the church.*

State any incentives: *None*

Describe peer and professional supports available for ministers in your association/conference: *The Conference Minister is a great support. Association clergy gatherings are held at St. John’s six times per year.*

1d. WHO IS GOD CALLING TO MINISTER WITH US?

Describe the ministry goals you envision your next minister co-collaborating with the congregation to achieve.

One goal we envision is to increase in our active membership with the help of our next pastor. Many of our new members join due to word of mouth from our members. Another goal we envision is to engage our youth in worship services. We have a large number of Sunday School participants, but once they are confirmed (usually eighth grade), their attendance in church services declines significantly.

Describe how your vision of the minister you are now seeking will assist the congregation in making an impact beyond its walls.

One way the new pastor can assist in making an impact is participating in community events and activities (Bridge Ministry, Manna Ministry, Burton ISD, etc.) and helping with church sanctioned missions and trips that involve more than just our congregation.

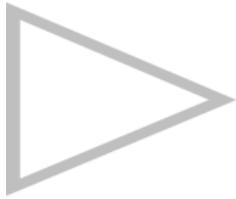
Specify language requirements or culturally-specific capacities preferred in a next ministerial leader, and why those matter to the congregation's sense of calling. *N/A*

Based on what you have learned about who your church is, who your church's neighbor is, and who God is calling the church to become, describe four areas of excellence from *The Marks of Faithful & Effective Authorized Ministry* that your next minister will display to further equip the congregation's ministry in these areas.

The following list includes four areas of excellence that we would like our future pastor to display:

- 1. Engaging sacred stories and traditions: We are looking for someone with great enthusiasm for conveying God's word and keeping our traditions alive within our church. We are open to new ideas and change, yet many of our traditions remain meaningful and important to us.*
- 2. Exhibiting a spiritual foundation and ongoing spiritual practice: Having a great knowledge of the Lord's word is a crucial aspect of our future pastor as well as having the want to continue learning.*
- 3. Strengthening inter and intra personal assets: We wish for our next pastor to have a strong moral character with great integrity and values. It is also crucial that our pastor genuinely cares about us as both a congregation and also as individual people.*
- 4. Caring for all creation: We believe this to be an important responsibility of our congregation, church, and pastor.*

2. WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BECOME?



“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matthew 22:37 NRSV)

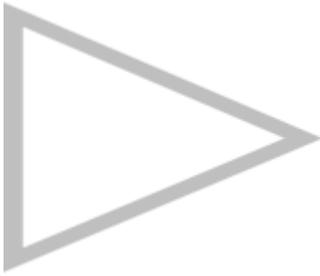
Who is God calling you to become as a congregation?

We believe that God is calling us to be an energetic, spirit-filled congregation with a leader who inspires people to come to worship services, to be involved in the community, and to reach out to help others. We strive to become a congregation that is eager to learn about and to follow the example of Jesus Christ, leaving politics out of the church.

Describe how God is calling you to reach out to address the emerging challenges and opportunities of your community and congregation.

Being a congregation that is open to new ideas, yet appreciates our rich heritage and traditions, in the spirit of “change” during this interim period for our church, we have experimented with a variety of different worship practices and techniques including altering traditional prayers, familiar hymns, creeds, and songs, including incorporating the to use gender neutral language. We also changed the version of the Bible in our pews from the Good News to the Revised New Revised Standard Version and have started using bulletins supplied by the United Church of Christ which had previously been from a different church supply company. After over a year of intentionally changing our worship, our Worship Committee gathered feedback from the congregation and has worked with the Pastor to make adjustments based on this feedback. Although some of these new practices have been embraced and may become loved traditions in our worship, we opted not to keep other practices. Overall, this has been an interesting learning experience and shows that we are a church willing to accept challenges and seek opportunities in those challenges.

3. WHO ARE WE NOW?



“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

- a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS
- b. 11-YEAR REPORT
- c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS
- d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING
- e. CHURCH FINANCES
- f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

3a. CONGREGATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Describe your congregation’s life of faith.

We believe that God is our supreme king; loving, forgiving, merciful. We walk together on our faith journey. When members join our church, there are several questions that are asked. The questions include: Do you desire to join into the faith and family of Jesus Christ? Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of the new life of Christ? Do you profess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? We believe this helps to describe who we are and who we want to continue to be.

We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the word and the will of God. Our purpose is to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the World, while worshiping God, and striving for truth, justice and peace. As did our ancestors, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

Describe several strengths or positive qualities of your congregation.

Our strengths are derived from our people: being a welcoming and friendly congregation, caring and accepting, as well as musically blessed. Other strengths are discussed either directly or indirectly throughout this profile through answers to questions about our vision, community outreach, facilities, etc.

Describe what worship is like when your congregation gathers.

LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE – 201

We have two services on Sunday mornings: 8am Contemporary Service and 10am Traditional Service. Music is an integral part of our services; St. John's musical talent includes four singing choirs, one hand-bell choir, and a six-member Praise Team with guitars, drums, and several soloists.

Describe the educational program/faith formation vision of your church.

Our faith formation vision includes teaching children about Jesus at a young age through Children's Sermon during services, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School and providing ways for individuals to continue growing in their faith at all ages, from teen to adult to seniors. We have a strong children's Sunday School program. After using purchased curriculum for several years, our CE (Christian Education) Team of Sunday School teachers and other volunteers agreed to have one of our teachers design our calendar and compile the curriculum for nursery through high school classes; this has been working very well. We also have a very active Vacation Bible School program that served both members and visitors, with approximately 70 child participants and 70 youth and adult volunteers each year. The Sunday School children tell the Christmas story in a very creative way each year through a thematic musical performance as the Christmas Eve service. Baptisms can be performed at any age, although many children are usually baptized as infants. Youth confirm their faith as eighth graders. Youth (junior high through high school aged) attend Sunday School classes and Youth Group Activities; our youth are also actively engaged with the younger children by helping with Sunday School activities, Vacation Bible School, and the Christmas Program. For adults, we have two different adult Sunday School classes as well as other groups that meet at different times, such as evenings, that include service and devotions.

Describe how your congregation is organized for ministry and mission.

We have a worship committee that works closely with our Senior Pastor to help plan special events and worship services. We have a mission committee that facilitates several fundraisers throughout the year not only for mission trips, but to help fund several local and national/international non-profit organizations. We also have a Charity Reserve committee that gives out endowment grants once per year to non-profit groups in the community.

When it comes to decision-making, how many hours are spent in meetings per month? *All committees are nominated and voted on at the congregational meeting. Terms for each committee vary by committee.*

Think of a time when action had to be taken quickly, for example when a crisis or disaster occurred. How was that accomplished? *Action had to be taken quickly when our church had to be used as a Red Cross Center for Hurricane Harvey in 2017. This was done through communication and cohesion of congregation members who were involved.*

Can you provide the next minister with a copy of an organization structure, bylaws and/or annual report to further explain the patterns of the church’s activity and governance? *Yes*

3b. 11-YEAR REPORT

The 11-year and Mission InSite report is attached at the end of this document.

3c. CONGREGATIONAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Describe those who participate in your church.

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Number of active members:	237	
Number of active non-members:	10	Yes
Total of church participants (sum of the numbers above):	247	Yes

Percentage of total participants who have been in the church:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
More than 10 years:	70%	Yes
Less than 10, more than 5 years:	20%	Yes
Less than 5 years:	10%	Yes

Number of total participants by age:

0-11	12-17	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	<i>Are these numbers an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
28	12	14	10	24	36	36	56	21	Yes

Percentage of adults in various household types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Single adults under 35:	5%	Yes
Households with minors:	35%	Yes
Single adults age 35-65:	5%	Yes
Joint households with no minors:	50%	Yes
Single adults over 65:	10%	Yes

Education level of adult participants by percentage:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
High school:	98%	Yes
College:	68%	Yes
Graduate School:	36%	Yes
Specialty Training:	43%	Yes
Other (please specify):		

Percentage of adults in various employment types:

		<i>Is this number an estimate? (check if yes)</i>
Adults who are employed:	55%	Yes
Adults who are retired:	15%	Yes
Adults who are not fully employed:	30%	Yes

Describe the range of occupations of working adults in the congregation:

In no particular order: Educators, Medical Field, Tradespeople, Farmers, Ranchers, Business, Retired, Other Education Professionals

Describe the mix of ethnic heritages in your congregation, and the overall racial makeup. Most UCC congregations tend to describe themselves as “diverse.” Yet, the vast majority of UCC congregations are mono-cultural. What does diversity mean in your context?

Different ages, genders, and lifestyles.

Has your congregation recently had a conversation about welcoming diversity, or do you plan to hold one on the near future (perhaps using, for example, the Welcoming Diversity Inventory)? Please note the date. Comment after the exercise:

Our church has not completed the Welcoming Diversity Inventory. Based on committee and congregational inventories conducted, we have shown that we are a welcoming church that does not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. We often have discussions and sermons about being accepting of everyone no matter their background.

3d. PARTICIPATION AND STAFFING

Complete the following chart. Please leave blank any fields that are not applicable to your congregation.

Ways of Gathering	Estimated number of people involved in attendance	Who plans each of the listed gatherings? (<i>list any and all worship planners, such as various lay leaders, pastors, musicians, other staff</i>)
Adult Groups or Classes	Varies	Leaders of the groups/Council
Baptisms (<i>8 last year</i>)		Senior Pastor
Children's Groups or Classes	Varies	Leaders of the groups/CE Board/Council
Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	280 and 336	Sunday School and Worship Committee
Church-wide Meals	Varies	Senior Pastor/Worship Committee
Choirs and Music Groups	Varies	Group Leaders/Council
Church-based Bible Study	Varies	Council
Communion (<i>served how often?</i>)	2/Month	Senior Pastor

Community Meals	Varies	Worship Committee
Confirmation <i>(number confirmed last year)</i>	6	Senior Pastor
Drama or Dance Program		
Funerals <i>(8 last year)</i>	Varies	Senior Pastor and Family
Intergenerational Groups		
Outdoor Worship	2/year	Worship Committee
Prayer or Meditation Groups	Varies	Council
Public Advocacy Work		
Retreats	Varies	Group Leaders/Council
Theology or Bible Programs in the Community		
Weddings <i>(5 last year)</i>	Varies	Senior Pastor and Family
Worship (time slot: 8am)	58	Senior
Worship (time slot: 10am)	172	Senior
Young Adult Groups or Classes	Varies	Council/Group Leaders
Youth Groups or Classes	Varies	Sunday School and Bridge Ministry
Other		

Additional comments:

Attached you find a list of different boards/committees and ongoing small groups in our church. There are so many that fit in multiple categories above

List all members or regular participants in your congregation who are ordained, licensed, or commissioned ministers. Indicate those with current United Church of Christ Three-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a congregation) or Four-Way Covenants (i.e. serving in a ministry beyond a congregation).

Name	Three- or Four-Way Covenant? (3 or 4 or No)	Ministry Setting	Type of Ministry Role	Retired? (Y or N)
Cindy Miller	Three	St. John's UCC	Support Ministry	Y
David Greer	Three	St. John's UCC	Support Ministry	N

List all current staff, including ministers. Exclude the position you are seeking to fill. Indicate which staff person serves as head of staff.

Staff Position	Head of Staff?	Compensation (full time, part time, volunteer)	Supervised by	Length of Tenure for current person in this position
Church Secretary		2017 - Full Time	Senior Pastor	1 year
Organist		Full Time	Senior Pastor	40 years
Building Manager		Part Time	Senior Pastor	8 years
Custodian		Part Time	Senior Pastor	2 years

REFLECTION

Reflection: After reviewing the congregational demographics and activities above, what does this information reflect about your congregation's overall ministry?

We feel that our demographics and activities show that we are an active and facilitating church with lots of opportunities to give back with different talents that showcase our church's abilities.

3e. CHURCH FINANCES

Current annual income (dollars used during most recent fiscal year)

Source	Amount
Annual Offerings and Pledged Giving	\$217,200.59

Endowment Proceeds (<i>as permitted within spending policy, such as a cap of typically 4.5%-5% on total return</i>)	\$0.00
Endowment Draw (<i>beyond what is permitted by spending policy, "drawing down the principal"</i>)	\$0.00
Fundraising Events	\$19,409.00
Gifts Designated for a Specific Purpose	\$6,937.30
Grants	\$0.00
Rentals of Church Building	\$3,331.75
Rentals of Church Parsonage	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,285.63
Special Offerings, OGHS, STC, NIN, VOC	\$1,619.00
Interest Income	\$4,190.09
Oil and Gas Lease	\$31,494.67
Cemetery	\$1,100.00
TOTAL	\$287,568.03

Current annual expenses (dollars budgeted for most recent fiscal year): \$299,179.78

Considering total budgeted expenses for the year, compare total ministerial support. What is the percentage? 21.4%

Has the church ever failed to pay its financial obligations to a minister of the church? No

Is your church 5-for-5, i.e. does it include each of the following contributions during the church year?

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM – Basic Support)

One Great Hour of Sharing

Strengthen the Church

Neighbors in Need

Christmas Fund

In what way is OCWM (Basic Support) gathered? If calculated as a percentage of operating budget, what is that percentage? *We set a specified amount in our yearly budget.*

What is the church’s current indebtedness? *\$0.00*

If the church has had capital campaigns in the last ten years, describe: *None*

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
		\$	\$	
		\$	\$	

If a capital campaign is underway or anticipated, describe:

Year(s)	Purpose	Goal	Result	Impact
		\$	\$	
		\$	\$	

Describe the prominent mission component(s) involved in the most recent (or current) capital campaign. *Our most recent capital campaign was completed in 2007 when we dedicated our Family Life Center. Please see the complete list of our community activities included in this Profile under the “Section 4a Community Vision.”*

Does your church have an endowment? *Yes*

What is the market value of the assets? *\$1.0 Million and \$300,000*

Are funds drawn as needed, regularly, or under certain circumstances? *Funds are drawn on the \$300,000 endowment as needed. 80% of the interest earned on the \$1.0 million endowment are given in grants to local non-profit organizations.*

What is the percentage rate of draw (last year, compared to 5 years ago)? *0.0%*

Describe draw on endowment, if any, to meet operating budget expenses for the most recent year and the past five years: *None*

At the current rate of draw, how long might the endowment last? N/A

Please comment on the above calculations or estimates:

Other Assets

<i>Reserves (savings): \$</i>	<i>Sabbatical Fund</i>	<i>\$ 8,244.79</i>
	<i>Building Fund</i>	<i>\$38,892.38</i>
	<i>Cemetery Improvement Fund</i>	<i>\$14,654.27</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>\$61,791.44</i>

Investments (other than endowment):

<i>Named Memorials</i>	<i>\$164,885.84</i>
<i>Memorial Fund</i>	<i>\$ 19,605.09</i>
<i>Cemetery Fund</i>	<i>\$ 27,115.74</i>
<i>Seminary Fund</i>	<i>\$ 8,870.32</i>
<i>Scholarship Fund</i>	<i>\$ 44,645.54</i>
<i>Thrivent</i>	<i>\$ 62,558.74</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$327,681.27</i>

Does your church have a parsonage? *Yes*

Fair market rental value of the parsonage: *\$1,450*

How is the parsonage used? *For Senior Pastor (and immediate family)*

Street / City / State / Zip: *600 Trinity Street Burton, Texas 77835*

Finished square footage: *1,852 square feet*

Number of Bedrooms, Number of Bathrooms: *3 bedrooms - 2 bathrooms*

Assessed real estate value: *\$167,210*

Available for minister residence: *Yes*

Expected minister residence: *Yes*

Condition of structure, systems and appliances: *Recently Remodeled*

Entity in the church responsible for review and needed repairs: *Church Council*

Describe all buildings owned by the church: *In addition to the parsonage, our sanctuary was recently remodeled with a carpeted foyer, aisles, and lower altar area with original hardwood floors under the pews and upper altar area. The sanctuary has a loft that houses the organ. The area that connects the sanctuary and Family Life Center (FLC) includes a parlor room, church*

offices, and restrooms. The two-story FLC, completed in 2007, includes an elevator and stairs. Also in the FLC is a fully functional kitchen with freezers, refrigerator, and an ice machine. There is a large common area that will seat 200 people with tables and chairs, a projector, and sound system ran from the technology room (upstairs). There are two meeting rooms, one library, and six Sunday School rooms (some that include adjoining children's restrooms), a Sunday School Office, and closets. Several of the rooms have partitions that open to the large common area to provide more seating space, if needed. The upstairs houses the youth room, music room, sewing room, a meeting room with a kitchenette for smaller meetings, a hand-bell room, and a large storage area. There are two sets of restrooms downstairs and one upstairs. Also located between the sanctuary and FLC is the outdoor Courtyard which includes benches, landscaping, fountain, pergola, and a covered area; the Courtyard has been used occasionally for outdoor worship. Our church cemetery is located on Old Mill Creek Road, about a mile away from church. The cemetery includes a small pavilion for outdoor worship and burial services.

Describe non-owned buildings or space used or rented by the church: *None*

Which spaces are accessible to wheelchairs? *Sanctuary, Offices, Family Life Center, Courtyard are accessible. Only the choir loft and chancel areas in the sanctuary are not handicap accessible.*

Reflection: After reviewing the church's finances and assets described above, what does this information reflect about your congregation's mission and ministry?

The church has a budget committee that meets every year and is composed of the church council president, the treasurer, and other volunteers from the congregation. Anyone is welcomed to join the meeting.

3f. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Name one to three significant happenings in the history of your church that have shaped the identity of your congregation. Add the most important event in the life of your church in the past 10 years.

- 1. With the completion of our Family Life Center, our congregation has worked cohesively to raise the funds needed to completed the building process.*

2. *Having several generations of the same family be part of our growing community has helped to shape us into the family driven congregation we are.*
3. *Trying to appeal to a wider demographic, our church began to have non-traditional services incorporating a Praise Team. The Praise Team began leading one worship service a month; now the team leads three services a month at St. Johns and travels to other churches in the community to lead worship.*

Describe a specific change your church has managed in the recent past. *We initiated the 5th quarter program that allows high school students come to the church after local football games for a fun and engaging time of fellowship in a safe place.*

Ministerial History (include all previous ministerial staff for the past 30 years)

Staff member's name	Years of service	UCC Standing (Y/N)
Glen Schoeneberg	35 Years	Y
Robert Bergthold	5 Years	Y
Paul Otte	5 Years	Y
Bruno Schroeder	4 Years	Y

Comment on what your church has learned about itself and its relationship with persons who provided ministerial leadership:

Our congregation has discovered that, even though we had a long term pastor who was part of our church family and community for 35 years, we continue to function cohesively as a church even though this long-term leadership has changed.

Has any past leader left under pressure or by involuntary termination? *No*

Has your church been involved in a Situational Support Consultation? *No*

Has a past pastor been the subject of a Fitness Review while at your church? *No*

4. WHO IS OUR NEIGHBOR?

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:39 NRSV)

- a. COMMUNITY VISION
- b. MISSION InSite

4a. COMMUNITY VISION

How do the relationships and activities of your congregation extend outward in service and advocacy?

Twice a year, our church hosts a blood drive. We also work with the local non-profit organization Burton Bridge Ministry to support several of their events including weekly Senior Day (meal and games/fellowship for senior citizens), gathering food and supplies, and collecting Christmas gifts for families. Through the church’s active Missions Committee, we support a number of causes including collecting hygiene supplies for Back Bay Mission and personal items for a women’s shelter, hosting concerts to raise money to benefit an organization focused on human trafficking, and collecting money for a heifer project to purchase an animal for families in another country. Approximately fifty members of our church have participated in the Emmaus Walk. Additionally, our church, specifically through our Sunday School, is considered the cornerstone church for supporting the local charity Adam’s Angels Ministry which raises money for families that face childhood cancer, through various fundraising events including a free-will donation meal at each Vacation Bible School closing and through our annual Sunday School Bike-a-thon. It is also a common practice for our Sunday School and congregation to donate items and money to local charities, such as school supplies to the Brenham State Supported Living Center and Burton ISD.

Describe your congregation’s participation in meetings, relationships and activities connecting the wider United Church of Christ (association / conference / national setting).

St. John’s has hosted association meetings and the clergy gathering (six times per year); we send delegates. Members have served as conference board of director members.

Many local churches love to tell the story of what they are doing in the community to transform lives. Some have identified certain aspects of their witness into the wider community using language shared with other UCC congregations. (Find more information as desired at ucc.org.) Check any statements below that apply to your UCC faith community.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible to All (A2A) | <input type="checkbox"/> Just Peace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creation Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Global Mission Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Open and Affirming (ONA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faithful and Welcoming | <input type="checkbox"/> WISE Congregation for Mental Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> God Is Still Speaking (GISS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other UCC designations: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Border and Immigrant Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Designations from other denominations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-cultural/Multi-racial (I'M) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None | |

Reflect on what the above statement(s) mean(s) to your community. Is your congregation interested in working toward any of the above statements of witness in the near future?
n/a; not at the time.

Describe your congregation’s participation in ecumenical and interfaith activities (with other denominations and religious groups, local and regional). *We welcome other churches to hold weddings and funerals in our sanctuary and Family Life Center. The local non-profit organization Bridge Ministry holds “Senior Days” each Friday in our Family Life Center, which offers a meal, games, and fellowship for senior citizens in the local community. We also participate in a Community Thanksgiving event each fall.*

If your congregation has a mission statement, how does that mission statement compare to the actual time spent engaging in different activities? Think of the range of activities from time spent gathering, to governance, to time spent going out. *In lieu of a Mission Statement, our church has the following Covenant in our Constitution: “We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the word and the will of God. Our purpose is to walk together in the ways of the Lord, made known and to be made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the World, while worshiping God, and striving for truth, justice and peace. As did our ancestors, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.” This Covenant statement accurately reflects the many different ways and activities in which the congregation of St. John’s worships and serves.*

Reflect on the scope of work assigned to your pastor(s). How is their community ministry and their ministry in and on behalf of the wider church accounted for in the congregation’s expectations on their time? *Our Senior Pastor is expected to attend meetings and to be involved in the community as directed by church council.*

4b. MISSION InSite

Comment on your congregation's MissionInsite report with data for your neighborhood(s) or area. What trends and opportunities are shown? *Trends in our MissionInsite report shows many of the subcategories staying moderately the same or a slight change.*

How do your congregation's internal demographics compare or contrast to a) the neighborhoods adjacent to your church, and b) other neighborhoods with which your church connects?

a.) Comparing our internal demographics to those in our community you see many mirror statistics. Our congregation is mainly Caucasian which matches our community. The report is showing a significant increase in school age children in the next 10 years and looking at our Sunday School program we can see some of that increased growth already. The statistics show the poverty level as below average and this is true for our congregation as well.

b.) Several of the communities around us are very similar considering size, demographics, education, and income. There is one larger city where several of our congregation members live that does show different statistics.

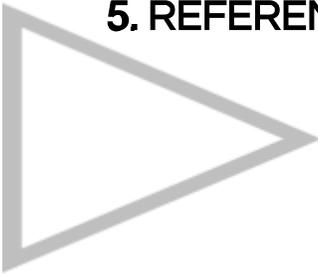
How are the demographics of the community currently shaping ministry, or not?

Using information from our long-range planning committee and looking at the Mission InSite report, it shows that we may need to look at reaching out to other ethnic groups and those with different cultural backgrounds to help expand our congregation, traditions, and how we reach out to others.

What do you hear when you talk to community leaders and ask them what your church is known for? *Our church is known to be very welcoming! We are engaged with the local community at all age levels: children participate through Vacation Bible School, teenagers participate through the Youth Group with BBAY (Burton Area Bridge Youth), and senior citizens are active through Senior Day via Burton Bridge Ministry. We also have very accommodating facilities and welcome the community to use these facilities. For example, as discussed previously in "Section 4a Community Vision," other churches have used the Sanctuary for funerals. Also, the Family Life Center is available to the community for rent and has been used for parties, weddings, showers, and other events. Additionally, many of our members are representative in the local community through roles such as teachers, nurses, volunteer firefighters, and the town mayor.*

What do new people in the church say when asked what got them involved? *New members usually learn about St. John's through word-of-mouth and encouragement through their personal relationships with current members.*

5. REFERENCES



REFERENCE 1 - Letter Attached

Glen Schoeneberg

Position: Previous Senior Pastor

Phone: (979) 251-2611

Email: revglens@gmail.com

Relationship to the Congregation: Previous Senior Pastor for St. John's UCC- Burton.

REFERENCE 2

Pam Knebel

Position: Executive Director of Burton Bridge Ministry

Phone: (979) 203-0781

Email: burtonbridgeministry@gmail.com

Relationship to the Congregation: St. John's is an ecumenical partner of the Burton Bridge Ministry.

REFERENCE 3 - Letter Attached

Donna Culliver

Position: Founder/Adam's Angels Ministry

Phone: (979) 830-3846

Email: dculliver@adamsangelsministry.org

Relationship to the Congregation: Several groups in our church give regularly to Donna's foundation.

REFERENCE LETTER

Glen Schoeneberg

To Candidates for the Position of Senior Minister,

St. John's is a PLUM! It is a large church (450 members) in a small town (325), so you get the best of two worlds! You get to engage in ministry in a church that has the resources, influence, and solid reputation to really make a difference in the community and in the world. You also get to live in a community where you know your people, because you meet them in the store, at the ballgame, and on the street. A lovely home near the church allows you a beautiful view, and a super-easy commute (1 block) to the church. Church and community folk deeply respect your privacy, so being so near the church was almost never a problem.

The church has some wonderful leadership! Seems like we were always catching new visions of ways to worship, and opportunities to serve. Finances were never a problem. The congregation, as a whole, was wonderfully accepting and affirming people, regardless of race, dress, age, or orientation.

The congregation has an exceptional gift of music! Four choirs, a hand bell choir, an A Capella singing group, a Praise Team, and superb soloists all vie for opportunities to enrich worship or social events. A yearly Christmas Cantata is "five star" quality, and a "must see" for many from the community. The annual Children's Christmas Eve program is packed because of the outstanding presentation that touches the heart! The organist, Linda Thaler, is awesome! She can handle anything thrown at her and plays with exuberance and passion!

St. John's is blessed with outstanding staff! Risa Garza serves as Associate Pastor and is working toward her ordination. Her skills for ministry are already superb, and she has a beautiful pastoral heart. She will be a pleasure to work with. Suzanne Kessler is an Office Manager that not only has terrific skills, but a deep knowledge of the history and dynamics at work in the church. She will be invaluable to you! Mickie Angerame has a huge heart for the church and brings dedication and integrity to the Building Manager office. You will find the staff, the Council, and the entire congregation pulling for you in your job as Pastor. One of my biggest joys in serving the church was the way folks stepped in to help where I was weak, and identified my strengths and helped them shine.

You will be delighted with the community! Burton has excellent schools! Cultural stimulus is just 10 miles away at Festival Hill. Community churches work together in uncommon unity (Bridge Ministry). Brenham (just 12 miles away) has almost everything you need, from hospitals, to fine eating places, to excellent grocery stores, to Super Walmart and such.

St. John's is a great place to be in ministry, and the Burton Community is a great place to live! If I could do it again, it is exactly the kind of plum I'd pick!

Rev. Glen Schoeneberg

979-251-2611

revglens@gmail.com

REFERENCE LETTER

Donna Culliver

June 13, 2018

Candidates for the Position of Senior Minister:

I am honored to write this letter of reference for St. John's United Church of Christ, Burton, Texas. My name is Donna Culliver and I am the founder/secretary of Adam's Angels Ministry, a small non-profit organization in Brenham, Texas, who provides care and comfort through physical, emotional, financial and spiritual support to childhood cancer families.

Over the past six years, I have come to know this family of believers at St. John's and have truly seen the love of God, family and community as the core beliefs. The strengths that stand out to me as a ministry are servant's hearts, attention to mission work, very welcoming and their financial giving toward others carrying out God's work. The members truly are an example to the children and this is evident in the giving hearts of the children.

I know every church's ministry has some weaknesses, but as far as my relationship with the church from a mission's perspective, I cannot identify a thing this church would need to make improvements on. I am a firm believer in "missions can be in your own neighborhood or community" and St. John's does an awesome job of focusing on community first.

Adam's Angels Ministry and St. John's have been a partnership wherein St. John's hosts a Sunday School Bike-A-Thon benefiting the ministry. Speaking about Adam's Angels and the mission of the ministry is very personal and emotional because it is in memory of my four-year old, Adam, who passed away from childhood cancer 15 years ago. I can recall my very first presentation to the congregation. The anticipation of speaking before a group other than my church home sent my nerves and emotions into overdrive. However, after much prayer and upon entering the sanctuary the morning of, the love, warmth and embracing hugs made all those fears disappear. I knew God was in charge but that morning the body of believers within the walls of St. John's calmed my fears. From that day forward, every time I am among this congregation I feel at home. In fact, I call it my second home.

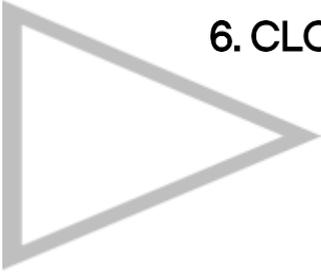
Blessings,

Adam's Angels Ministry

Donna R. Culliver

Donna R. Culliver
Founder/Secretary

Praise be to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all of our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort that we ourselves have received from God. II Corinthians 1:3-5



6. CLOSING THOUGHTS

- a. CLOSING PRAYER
- b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT
- c. CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION VALIDATION

6a. CLOSING PRAYER

The following two passages are often used at the conclusion of our worship services, are meaningful to our Search Committee, and are appropriate as the closing thoughts of this profile:

*“Lead me Lord, and I will follow;
Lead me Lord, and I will go,
You have called me, and I will answer;
Lead me, Lord, and I will go.”*

and

“The worship has ended, let the service begin.”

6b. STATEMENT OF CONSENT

The covenantal relationship between a church and those called by that church to serve as pastors and teachers and in other ministerial positions is strengthened when vital information is openly shared by covenantal partners. To that end, we attest that, to the best of our abilities, we have provided information in this profile that accurately represents our church. We have not knowingly withheld any information that would be helpful to candidates.

As the committee charged with the responsibility for identifying and recommending suitable new minister for our church, we have been authorized to share the information herein with potential candidates. We understand that a candidate may wish to secure further knowledge, information, and opinions about our church. We encourage a candidate to do so, recognizing that an open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for continuing and healthy relationships between calling bodies and persons seeking a ministry position.

1. Which individuals and groups in the church contributed to the contents of this Local Church Profile?

St. John's UCC Search Committee of 8 members in collaboration with Pastor Stark, interim pastor, Steve Miller, current council president, and Ann Pape, church treasurer, and Suzanne Kessler the church secretary

2. Additional comments for interpreting the profile:

Meeting as a committee over the course of several weeks, this profile was compiled using congregational information, surveys, and interviews with congregation members. This profile only shows a glimpse of His work that is being done in our community.

Signed: Elizabeth Jurica

Name / Title / Date: Elizabeth Jurica / PSC Chair / June 28, 2018

6c. VALIDATION BY CONFERENCE/ASSOCIATION

The congregation is currently in good standing with the association / conference named.

Staff Comment:

To the best of my knowledge, ministerial history information is complete.

Staff Comment:

To the best of my knowledge, available church financial information is presented thoroughly.

Staff Comment:

My signature below attests to the above three items.

Signature: *Rev. Dr. Donald J. Longbottom*

Name / Title: Rev. Dr. Donald J. Longbottom, Conference Minister

Email: drdon@sccucc.org

Phone: 480-322-5779

Date: October 30, 2018

This document is created through support to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and is only possible through the covenantal relationships of all settings of the United Church of Christ.

“Jesus answered them, ‘Have faith in God!’” – Mark 11:22